

Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 /078 W
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R 260825Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5358

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, US, VS, PFOR, PDIP

SUBJ: STATEMENT BY OPPOSITION MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ON EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA

REF: CANBERRA 1663

1. IN STATEMENT RELEASED ON MARCH 25 AND CARRIED IN PORTIONS OF AUSTRALIAN MEDIA MARCH 26, OPPOSITION SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANDREW PEACOCK, STRONGLY DENOUNCED LABOR GOVERNMENT POLICY ON INDO-CHINA AND URGED GOVERNMENT TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN ALLEVIATING CIVILIAN SUFFERING IN CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM, RATHER THAN LEAVING QTE EVERYTHING TO THE UNITED STATES. END QTE. HE CALLED ON QTE AUSTRALIA TO EXPRESS ITS GRAVE CONCERN AT THE OPEN AND CYNICAL REPUDIATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND TO TAKE A DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN URGING THEIR REINSTATEMENT AS A BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT.. IF WE SPEAK OUT NOW, WE MAY STILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON EVENTS. IN ANY CASE WE WILL HAVE BEEN TRUE TO OUR PROFESSED PRINCIPLES. END QTE.

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2. ON RELATED ISSUE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG OFFICE IN

AUSTRALIA (REFTEL) PEACOCK STATED, QTE ... LET IT ALSO BE
QUITE CLEAR THAT A LIBERAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT WILL
NOT ACCEPT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY
GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIET-NAM TO REMAIN IN AUSTRALIA WHILE
WE HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON. WE REGARD
THIS AS BLATANTLY CONTRADICTORY. IF THERE IS A PRG OFFICE
IN AUSTRALIA WHEN WE COME TO POWER, THE PRG REPRESENTATIVES
WILL BE TOLD TO LEAVE AUSTRALIA. END QTE.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF CURRENT COMMUNIST GAINS IN SOUTH
VIET-NAM, THIS STATEMENT MAY NOT RPT NOT HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON
NORTH VIETNAMESE, WHO CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE
TO PRESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA. HOW-
EVER, STATEMENT IS CLEAR EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION VIEWS ON
ISSUE OF PRG OFFICE.

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Message Attributes

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